MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : It does not contain any information about it.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*) : Will the Chief Secretary please enquire into it ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

State Aided Bank, Alleppey.

104. **MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*) : With reference to the State Aided Bank Ltd., Alleppey, will the Government be pleased to furnish the following information :—

(*a*) the various reasons that weighed with the Government for not confirming Mr. K. C. Pandalai in the managership of the Bank;

(*b*) the qualification of his successor Mr. T. D. Pillai ;

(*c*) whether the Government are aware of the popular protest against the appointment of Mr. T. D. Pillai ; if so, what action have they taken or propose to take in the matter ; and

(*d*) whether the Government will be pleased to place on the table all the papers relating to the management of the Bank ?

MR. K. N. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) The Manager is, under the Bank's Articles, appointed by the Directors with the approval of the Government.

No application was made to the Government for their assent to the appointment of Mr. K. C. Pandalai as the permanent Manager of the State Aided Bank.

(*b*) Mr. T. D. Pillai is a Certified Associate of the Institute of Bankers (London) and has had over 10 years' practical experience in Banking.

(*c*) The Government have received protests from certain quarters. The appointment by the Bank of its officials is a matter which concerns the share-holders of the Bank which is a Joint Stock Co., under the Companies' Regulation, and not the outside public.

(*d*) Articles 92 to 98 of the Bank's Articles of Association relate to the management of the Bank.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : May I know whether the Government approved the appointment of Mr. Pandalai as Manager at first ?

MR. K. N. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*) Is the member referring to the appointment of a permanent Manager for the Bank ?

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : No. My question is whether when Mr. Pandalai was appointed as acting Manager the Government approved of the appointment.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*) : I rise to a point of order, Sir. Is this not purely a personal matter ?

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : There is no personality involved in it. Anybody can understand that I am concerned only with the post of Managership. That is all. It is an intellectual impossibility to forget the man behind the post.

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PRESIDENT: The reason why this question was admitted is this. It relates to a company in which the public hold shares; and the Government's responsibility for the share-holders was challenged by the question. It was therefore considered expedient to answer the question.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil cum Devicolam*): May I know whether the question has been asked on the ground that public interest would suffer on account of the appointment concerned?

PRESIDENT: As the public are share-holders in the Company the public *are* interested to a certain extent in the matter. It was only in consideration of this particular point that this question was allowed.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): My question is whether when Mr. Pandalai was first appointed as Ag. Manager the Government approved of his appointment?

MR. K. N. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Mr. Pandalai was proposed for appointment as temporary Manager for a *definite period* and the Government gave their approval to such appointment.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether the Government approved of his removal?

MR. K. N. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*): There was no question of his *removal*.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): When the permanent man was appointed Mr. Pandalai was naturally removed from his place.

MR. K. N. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*): There was no question of removal. Mr. Pandalai was appointed as a temporary Manager for a *definite* period; and when the period expired he naturally vacated the post.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): When the Directorate made the appointment of Mr. T. D. Pillai, may I know whether they communicated to Government the reasons that weighed with them in preferring Mr. T. D. Pillai to Mr. Pandalai?

MR. K. N. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*): As far as I recollect, the Directors, when recommending Mr. T. D. Pillai, did not recommend Mr. Pandalai as an alternative candidate at all.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Have they given any reasons why they preferred Mr. T. D. Pillai to Mr. Pandalai?

MR. K. N. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I have already stated that Mr. Pandalai was not one of the men recommended for the permanent post.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Which is more onerous, to start a Bank and bring it into working order or to carry on the routine work of the Bank afterwards?

MR. K. N. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*): That is a hypothetical question.

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